14.	Kankanee Opencast	Quarry reached techno-economic Limit.

Ccrtificaiton of coal mining plans

467. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 895 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the notification dated 20th June, 1988 referred to in the above stated reply includes the word "also" meaning thereby that there exist other agencies also, apart from the now designated Standing Committee for issue of certificate for the purpose of Rule 22C of the MC Rules;

(b) if so, which are these agencies; and

(c) the reasons for omission of the word "also" in the above stated reply from the said Gazette Notification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Section 26 of the Mines, and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 expowers the Central Government to direct, by a gazette notificaiton, that any power exercisable by the Central Government, under the MMRD Act,' may be exercisable "also" by officers or authority subordinate to the Central Government. The use of the word "also" conveys delegation. Under the above cited section 26 of the MMRD Act, the gazette notification dated 20th June 1988 was issued retaining the word 'also', in para 2 thereof, conveying that in addition to the Standing Committee, the Central Government also reserves the power of the recognition of the person, under rule 22 (c) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 to prepare a mining plan. In respect of coal, lignite and sand for stowing the Ministry of Coal have the powers of the Central Government under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

Allotment of Chandrapur Coal Mines

468. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRIMATI CHANDRAKAIA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported allotment of Chandrapur Coal M ines by Maharashtra Government to Central India Coal Company, a subsidiary of Ispat Limited;

(b) whether the mines are in the close vicinity i.e., within a radius of 25 Kilometers from an ordnance factory under the Defence Ministry;

(c) whether the location of mines adjacent to the factory was objected to by the Centre for Environment and Explosive Safety;

(d) if so, the action taken so far by Government; and

(e) if not, whether Government would assure non-violation of the aforesaid act by Central India Coal Company in Chandrapur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As per information available in Ministry of Coal, Government of India no mining lease for coal in Baranj block (I to IV) located in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra has so far been granted by Government of Maharashtra to Central India Coal Company Limited, a subsidiary of Ispat Urja Limited, Mumbai.

(b) The Baranj block is within a radius of 25 kms from Ordnance Factory, Chandrapur.

(c) In April 1977 the Ministry of Defence, Government of India advised that the Centre for Environment and Explosive Safety had expressed their apprehension in July 1996 about the safety of the products of Ordnance